

## **REMARKS**

### **Status of the Claims**

Upon entry of the instant amendment, claims 1-14 remain pending in the above-identified application, with claims 8-14 standing ready for further action on the merits, and remaining claims 1-7 being withdrawn from consideration based on an earlier restriction requirement of the Examiner.

In this response, claim 8 has been amended to recite limitations recited in claim 1 and to delete "inkjet recording media." Accordingly, the present amendments to the claims do not introduce new matter into the application as originally filed. As such entry of the instant amendment and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited at present.

### **Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103**

Claims 8-11 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over JP '086 (JP 2001-179086). Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over JP '086. The rejections are respectfully traversed. Reconsideration and withdrawal thereof are requested based on the following considerations.

### **Distinctions and Nonobviousness over the Cited Reference**

The present invention is directed to a method for imparting adsorbability of moisture- or a protein to a material by adding the moisture- or protein-adsorbability imparting agent of claim 1 to a material selected from the group consisting of food wrapping materials, filtration aid agents, sanitary articles, compositions containing a synthetic resin, moisture-controlled material,

covering materials for wounds, insulation substrates, coating materials for semiconductor devices, cosmetics, and compositions containing synthetic fibers. (See claim 8.)

In this response, claim 8 has been amended to delete “inkjet recording media.” Thereby, the claimed invention is further defined over the JP ‘086 reference, since the cited reference fails to disclose or suggest the claimed feature(s) as recited in amended claim 8.

Also, it is stated at page 3, line 2 of the Office Action that “*JP ‘086 teaches using silica in a recording sheet (inkjet recording media and also considered a sanitary article).*” However, “*a sanitary article*” cannot be found in JP ‘086.

Therefore, the claimed invention is not anticipated by the JP ‘086 reference. Further, there is not provided any rationale and/or reasonable expectation of success based on the JP ‘086 reference alone, by which one skilled in the art could arrive at the present invention as claimed, since the cited reference fails to disclose or suggest each of the instantly claimed features, as explained above. Thus, it is submitted that the present invention is not obvious over the JP ‘086 reference alone.

Based on the foregoing considerations, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections.

#### **Allowable Subject Matter**

The Examiner states that claim 12 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the early indication of allowable subject matter in this application.

As explained above, claim 8 is now patentable. Thus, claim 12, which depends on claim 8, should also be patentable. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection.

**Conclusion**

Based upon the amendments and remarks presented herein, the Examiner is respectfully requested to issue a Notice of Allowance clearly indicating that each of the pending claims is allowed.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Toyohiko Konno, Reg. No. L0053 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Director is hereby authorized to charge any fees required during the pendency of the above-identified application or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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